

## Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service 2010 3<sup>RD</sup> Quarterly Report

### **Volunteer Promotion**

#### ***The Governor's Volunteer Award Program***

The Governor's Volunteer Award program was established in 1982 to honor and recognize volunteers for the commitment, service and time that they contribute to Iowa's government agencies and nonprofit organizations. More than 780 volunteers were selected for awards in 2010. Volunteers may be nominated for an award in one of several categories:

- Governor's Volunteer Award (Individual or Group)
- Disaster Volunteer Award (Individual or Group)
- Length of Service Award (Individual or Group)

Award presentation ceremonies were held in June in Storm Lake and in July in Cedar Rapids, Cedar Falls, and Ankeny. Names of recipients and additional details are available at [www.volunteeriowa.org/awards](http://www.volunteeriowa.org/awards)



#### **Global Youth Service Day**

For the second consecutive year, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS) has been awarded Lead Agency for Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) in Iowa. GYSD 2011 has been scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> and the ICVS will strive to collaborate with local youth-serving programs and agencies to organize 35-40 projects that engage more than 2,500 youth in meaningful acts of community service. In 2010, nearly 2,000 children and youth partnered with local schools and organizations to organize 27 projects in local Iowa communities.

The ICVS will once again match the \$2,500 planning grant that is provided to Lead Agencies by Youth Service America to offer mini-grants and promotional materials to local, youth-led GYSD projects. As Lead Agency, the ICVS will also develop resources including marketing, media and project-development toolkits, for young people who are interested in leading their own GYSD projects.

#### ***Summer of Service***

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service assisted the Governor's Office in promoting the Culver/Judge "Summer of Service" Initiative, which complimented President Obama's "United We Serve" campaign. All Iowans – whether seeking to volunteer, or in need of volunteers for community service projects, were encouraged to participate in local service activities.

#### ***September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance***

The commission partnered with the Iowa Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Governor's Office to publicize and encourage participation in this second annual National Day of Service designated in the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. Several projects were posted on the Volunteer Iowa Web portal, ranging from donation drives, Habitat for Humanity projects, veterans recognition events, and community clean ups. A total of sixteen projects were completed across the state.



## **RSVP**

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service is coordinating the distribution of \$179,961\* in state funds appropriated by the legislature to Iowa's RSVP programs. These programs work across the state to engage individuals that are 55 and over in meeting Iowa's critical needs. Sponsorship of the RSVP program in Cedar Rapids was transferred from St. Luke's Hospital to the United Way of East Central Iowa in July. A new RSVP program has been awarded in Fairfield; that program will be eligible to apply for state funding in FY2012. The FY2011 amounts awarded\* and counties served are listed below:

City	County	Amount
Boone	Boone	\$10,779
Carroll	Carroll	\$5,015
Cedar Rapids	Linn	\$5,015
Clinton	Clinton	\$5,015
Council Bluffs	Mills, Pottawattamie	\$15,888
Davenport	Scott	\$5,015
Decorah	Winneshiek	\$13,169
Des Moines	Dallas, Polk, Warren	\$5,015
Dubuque	Dubuque	\$5,015
Fort Dodge	Webster	\$15,888
Fort Madison	North Lee County	\$5,015

City	County	Amount
Iowa City	Johnson, Iowa, Muscatine	\$29,888
Mason City	Cerro Gordo, Worth, Hancock, Winnebago	\$5,015
Mount Pleasant	Henry	\$10,779
Newton	Jasper	\$5,015
Ottumwa	Monroe, Wapello	\$5,015
Sioux City	Woodbury	\$5,015
Spencer	Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, Palo Alto	\$5,015
Story City	Story, Marshall	\$13,360
Waterloo	Black Hawk, Fayette	\$5,015
Webster City	Hamilton, Wright	\$5,015

\*This figure represents a status quo appropriation for FY2011, which was a reduction from the FY 2009 appropriation of \$197,198.



Throughout the past quarter, the Iowa Mentoring Partnership (IMP) awarded first-time certification to three additional mentoring programs. A total of 79 certified mentoring programs (serving 70 of Iowa's 99 counties) are now included in the IMP's statewide network. Unfortunately, two programs have been forced, due to budgetary barriers, to close in the past three months.

In an effort to build the capacity of local programs, the IMP strives to provide low or no-cost training opportunities to certified mentoring program staff members and the IMP was recently sub-granted, for the second year in a row, funds from the Iowa Department of Public Health's Byrne-Jag Mentoring Collaborative Grant to expand training opportunities for certified mentoring program staff members.

The IMP is excited to announce that Dr. Susan Weinberger, also known as "Dr. Mentor," a leading expert in the mentoring field, will facilitate the mentoring track at the upcoming Iowa Nonprofit Summit on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in Ames, Iowa. The IMP is pleased to offer free registration and discounted hotel rates for one certified mentoring representative per program.



### **AmeriCorps**

### **AmeriCorps Supplemental Funding**

*\$6.1 million in funds announced and 692 member positions now available*

In September 2010 the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service was awarded supplemental AmeriCorps State funding, increasing the 2010 total to over \$6.1 million. Out of this supplemental funding, the Commission voted to increase funding to eight existing grantees and to award three new planning grants. Together, these programs will place 692 AmeriCorps members in communities Iowa. This is a 66 percent increase in funding over last year for Iowa AmeriCorps State programs.

Iowa has expanded its AmeriCorps operations largely through the improved performance in the National State Competition, in which states submit top programs to compete on a national level, as well as increased levels of local funding for the programs. Each state commission also receives a population-based block grant to make additional awards. Additionally, Iowa has 240 members serving at the North Central NCCC Campus in Vinton Iowa and hundreds of AmeriCorps VISTA members serving with local organizations. A total of more than 1,200 AmeriCorps members are expected to serve in Iowa in 2010-2011.

The following chart details the total AmeriCorps State 2011-2012 grants made by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service:

### **2010-2011 FUNDING LEVELS**

#### **AmeriCorps State 2010-2011**

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Approved Funding</b>			<b>Members</b>
	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Education Award</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>	
Graceland University - Youth Launch AmeriCorps	\$145,612	\$59,760	\$205,372	24
City of Dubuque -Partners In Learning AmeriCorps	\$285,889	\$121,445	\$407,334	56
Iowa Legal Aid- AmeriCorps	\$183,450	\$75,976	\$259,426	20
Iowa DNR- Keepers of The Land AmeriCorps	\$602,591	\$283,764	\$886,355	97
Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps	\$399,155	\$176,380	\$575,535	47
Boys & Girls Clubs- AmeriCorps	\$216,468	\$98,975	\$315,443	25
Big Brothers Big Sisters- AmeriCorps	\$130,000	\$56,068	\$186,068	14

Community Corrections Improvement Association- Each One Reach One AmeriCorps	\$305,484	\$120,998	\$426,482	40
Des Moines Schools - Partners in Education AmeriCorps	\$196,000	\$74,900	\$270,900	28
IA Assn for Education of Young Children- Planning	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	
IA Public Health Assn. Found.- Iowa Public Health AmeriCorps Planning	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	0
IA Workforce Development - YouthBuild AmeriCorps	\$269,000	\$184,468	\$453,468	85
Iowa State University - State of Promise AmeriCorps	\$506,999	\$208,650	\$715,649	50
Kossuth Connections- Planning	\$49,931	\$0	\$49,931	
University of Northern Iowa- Green Iowa AmeriCorps	\$477,990	\$149,800	\$627,790	50
Upper Iowa University- Planning	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	
Iowa Campus Compact- AmeriCorps	\$22,651	\$151,459	\$174,110	130
ICADV- REACH AmeriCorps	\$132,496	\$74,900	\$207,396	14
Prevent Child Abuse Iowa- AmeriCorps	\$155,184	\$64,200	\$219,384	12
	\$4,228,900	\$1,901,741	\$6,130,641	692

## **Training**

### **July**

#### **15<sup>th</sup> – Life After AmeriCorps WebEx**

A WebEx training was facilitated for the required member training of Life After AmeriCorps. With the WebEx technology, we were able to access multiple programs in numerous locations across the state. The WebEx was also recorded so that any trainees unavailable for the live training could receive their training at their convenience. Topics were presented such as the emotional transition out of AmeriCorps, how to maximize the use of the AmeriCorps education award and how to strategically design a resume or interview from your AmeriCorps experience. 35 members and 2 Program Directors were trained during the live WebEx.

#### **28<sup>th</sup>: New Program Director Training**

Any AmeriCorps State Program Director or planning grant staff that had not yet participated in a New Program Director Training was required to attend this one-day training at ICVS headquarters. The ICVS PDAT officer and 3 Program Officers collaborated to facilitate training topics of reporting systems and program management for 10 trainees.

#### **July 29 – 30<sup>th</sup>: Americorps State Program Director Retreat**

19 new and returning AmeriCorps State Program Directors attended a two day pre-program year training in Urbandale at the end of July. The ICVS PDAT officer and 3 Program Officers collaborated to facilitate training topics of disability inclusion, volunteer management, member benefits and more. Participants were presented with the annually updated AmeriCorps State resource and policy manual.

### **August**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup>: Oskaloosa AMC grant writing training**

The last of four AmeriCorps State Grant Writing trainings was offered at William Penn University on August 3. This training was offered in different geographic areas of the state throughout the

summer in order to propagate competitive AmeriCorps program applications for the program year 2011-2012. 19 participants attended this day-long workshop facilitated by LT & J Consulting and sponsored by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

#### 16<sup>th</sup>: New Commissioner Orientation

ICVS staff coordinated its annual new Commission orientation for 5 newly appointed Commissioners and 7 Executive Committee Commissioners during one afternoon in Urbandale. Topics included Commissioner roles and responsibilities and Commission programs and activities. Participants were presented with the annually updated Commissioner handbook.

### September

The PDAT Officer was recruited to serve on a committee for America's Service Commissions (ASC) that will conduct research on training and disability inclusion initiatives for State Commissions nationwide. The goal is to use the research findings to develop a recommendation to ASC to better improve its training services and supports to the Commissions. The Iowa PDAT conducted five brief phone interviews with assigned Commission staff from NE, IL, ND, MN and WI, recorded responses and uploaded the information into a data collection system to undergo further review.

## ***Disability Inclusion***

### July

One \$500 Inclusive Service Project Mini Grant proposal was awarded out of the three submissions for the round that corresponded with the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act celebration. The awarded program was the Woodbury County Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). The RSVP Program partnered with the Center for Siouxland, the Friendship House (a mental health advocacy group) and local Fareway stores to stage a food drive, noting the summer time is often the hardest on needy families when their children do not have access to school meal programs. Since the demand is greater during this time of year, the food pantries are sparse.

The project activities occurred on July 9, 10 and 12. On July 9<sup>th</sup>, the volunteers sorted food pantry items and made room for the incoming food drive items. The Fareway food drives were advertised in their weekly ad for July 10. Friendship House volunteers were paired with an RSVP member to greet store customers and let them know they could participate in a food drive in honor of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Shoppers were presented with a list of the most needed pantry items and carts were available to drop off their donations as they left the store. On July 12, volunteers met at the pantry again to sort donations into meal kits. Through the Hunger Heroes Food Drive, volunteers collected 2,130 non-perishable items and \$134 in cash donations. Volunteers were able to bag 50 complete packages that included the primary ingredients for 5 complete meals for a family of 3.



### August

25<sup>th</sup>: AmeriCorps State Site Supervisors Inclusion Training - Ames

The ICVS Inclusion Coordinator facilitated an hour long training for AmeriCorps program Site Supervisors at the 4H Center in Ames. 13 Site Supervisors were trained on disability etiquette, recruitment and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act accessibility and interview guidelines.

31<sup>st</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ICVS Accessibility Team meeting – Des Moines

6 members of the Accessibility Team met at ICVS headquarters in Des Moines for its quarterly meeting. An additional 6 members joined the meeting via WebEx. The meeting lasted for 90 minutes and included discussion on the topics of upcoming Days of Service, recap of events/activities from quarter two, inclusive initiatives for 2011, status of upcoming events and the introduction of a strategic plan to be vetted at the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter meeting.

### **Outreach Events and Activities**

#### **July**

- 8<sup>th</sup>: **Work Incentive Seminar Event – Sioux City**; ICVS representative attended to speak to attendees about AmeriCorps membership and how their benefits may or may not be impacted by the income earned as an AmeriCorps member.
- 16<sup>th</sup>: **Iowa Youth Leadership Forum – Ames**; ICVS representative offered a table at the agency fair so that statewide high school youth with disabilities and their parents could learn about AmeriCorps opportunities.
- 24<sup>th</sup>: **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration – Iowa City**; ICVS representative and members from the Each One Reach One AmeriCorps program hosted a table at this celebration on the Pedestrian Mall. ICVS was invited to attend by one of its Accessibility Team members from Access 2 Independence. Senator Tom Harkin and Congressman Dave Loebsack were featured speakers at this event.
- 25<sup>th</sup>: **College Leadership Forum – Ames**; ICVS representative gave a presentation about AmeriCorps opportunities for college students with disabilities.

#### **August**

- 12<sup>th</sup>: **Work Incentive Seminar Event – Dubuque**; ICVS representative attended to speak to attendees about AmeriCorps membership and how their benefits may or may not be impacted by the income earned as an AmeriCorps member.

#### **September**

- 9<sup>th</sup>: **Work Incentive Seminar Event – Davenport**; ICVS representative attended to speak to attendees about AmeriCorps membership and how their benefits may or may not be impacted by the income earned as an AmeriCorps member.
- 13<sup>th</sup>: **IowaWORKS Disability Program Navigator meeting – Iowa City**; ICVS was invited by one of its Accessibility Team members from IowaWORKS to speak about AmeriCorps opportunities for customers with disabilities at the monthly meeting of Disability Program Navigators from across the state.
- 15<sup>th</sup>: **Iowa State University Social Services and Volunteer Day – Ames**; ICVS hosted a table at this annual event to speak with college students about AmeriCorps opportunities.
- 24<sup>th</sup>: **Iowa College Access and Success Conference – Des Moines**; ICVS hosted a table at this annual event to speak with high school counselors, teachers and administrative staff about AmeriCorps opportunities.
- 28<sup>th</sup>: **AIB College of Business Career and Volunteer Fair – Des Moines**; ICVS hosted a table at this event to speak with AIB students and attending high school students about AmeriCorps opportunities and general volunteering.

### **Iowa Green Corps**

Below is the status update for the Green Corps that was started under 2009 legislation and is supported by an Iowa Power Fund grant.

Performance Measures (target)	12/31/2009	3/31/2010	6/30/2010	9/30/2010	Final Total
Energy conservation	5	12	46	32	95 programs

and efficiency education programs conducted (50)					
Attendees at educational programs	172	422	3,250	439	4,283
Implemented or advised property owners (homes and businesses) on weatherization improvements (350)	279	777	4,241	912	6,209 property owners
Recruit volunteer hours (1000)	0	0	368	897	1,265 hours
Implemented team projects and education programs (21)	13	56	91	77	237 projects & programs
Match resources (\$150,000)	\$8000	\$11,525	\$7,021	\$1,221	\$153,758*
Energy savings gained \$/year through project implementation	\$11,526	\$11,526	\$18,532	\$9,994	\$51,578
Energy savings gained KWH/year through project implementation	14,486	14,586	23,452	12,584	65,108 KWH
Energy savings gained gallons water/year through project implementation	1,154,130	1,154,130	1,855,660	995,720	5,159,640 gallons

*\*Cash and in-kind donations made throughout the year to support the work of Green Iowa AmeriCorps were reported quarterly. Total year-end amount includes match from UNI, Dubuque and West Union.*

## PROGRESS

Green Iowa AmeriCorps teams based in Cedar Falls and Cedar Rapids partnered with local community governments, organizations and business throughout the year to provide weatherization, outreach and education services that will increase the energy efficiency and environmental sustainability of the communities. These partners donated time, training, expertise, cash, materials and leadership to help the projects succeed.

Iowa Green Corps programming exceeded all performance measure targets for the 2009-2010 AmeriCorps program year, with great positive impact in the communities served as evidenced by data collection, partner feedback and community/client survey responses. The data on energy savings per year through the projects implemented is impressive from even a one-year standpoint. From a long term view, the one-time investment of resources will provide these energy savings every year and become more valuable as time passes and the cost of energy increases.

AmeriCorps VISTA member placements in two communities were also supported by the Power Fund grant. Michelle Balek was placed with Sustainable Dubuque, an effort of the City of Dubuque, where she worked to increase the capacity of that office to reach out to community members and work towards sustainability goals. Among many other projects, one highlight of her term of service was the coordination of grant applications, resources and schedules to bring an AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps team to Dubuque, where they delivered and often installed over 120 energy-saving kits and canvassed over 500 households with information about energy efficiency resources. Ben Lewis served as the VISTA member placed in West Union, and assisted with incorporating Green Streets criteria into the city vision and projects.